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EDITORIALS BY JUDGE C. C. GOODWIN

## Time for Swift Action

THERE is an organization in this country, the avowed object of which is to bring around such changes as will insure a better reward to labor. It poses under the title of a labor organization.

That is, it steals the holy name of labor as a cloak to mask its unholy purposes.

No matter what its constitution and by-laws may proclaim, from the lips of its leaders and the acts of its followers, it long ago demonstrated that it is an inherent enemy of order and of law, that its purpose is to live, not by honest labor, but upon the fruits of other men's labor, and that to accomplish this, it would, if it could, destroy this government of ours, and more than Mexicanize the United States. The right of self-defense to insure self-protection is inherent with men and nations. If a thug proclaims that it is his intention to murder a man that man arms himself in order to be prepared if the emergency arises to protect himself.

There is a convicted murderer and robber in the Utah penitentiary awaiting execution. His crime was fully established. He has had the benefit of having his case reviewed by the supreme court; he has been besought by the pardoning board to produce the new evidence on which he pretends he might be cleared, but at every step he has all the more clearly shown that he knows nothing and can produce nothing which would serve to pierce the shadow that is over him.

Still this organization, referred to above, has taken up his case; without knowing aught of the facts it demands a mitigation of the sentence; depraved men and brainless women join in the cry and with it are mingled ruffian threats of violence upon those whose duty it is to execute the law.

It seems to us that this is a time when "watchful waiting" should cease, when to wait for some "overt act" is criminal, a time when the United States, the states and the cities which hold within their borders the men who are writing these threatening letters and shadowing private homes, should act.

It seems to us that the government of the United States should order through the proper channels a full investigation of this order and if found to be what its leaders proclaim that it is, to take the necessary means to crush it. We understand all about the liberty of the press and the freedom of speech in this republic.

But all this does not license a band of men, mostly foreigners, who never ate a square meal until they reached our shores, to become a menace to the peace of our country, the lives of our people and the very integrity of our institutions. If they are what they profess to be they should

be stamped out, and to wait until some good men are killed would be a criminal procedure for one good man's life is worth more than the lives of the whole sinister organization.

Prompt action is what is needed now. Had Herr Most been quietly hanged after he made his first speech in this country, this organization would never have been born.

## How the East Loves Us

FROM the Atlantic to the eastern base of the Rocky mountains the settlers helped themselves, as they advanced, to everything they could find in the then wilderness. The utmost they ever paid for the richest lands was \$2.50 per acre—just enough to pay for the surveys and the making out of the deeds.

Some three score years or more ago some crank started the idea that inasmuch as the government owned the public domain, it in reality belonged to all the people and if it anywhere contained special treasures, like lead or zinc or coal or iron deposits, the whole people should own those deposits. The idea seemed a good one to the men in the far east, who knew nothing of the frontier or the hardships incident upon its settlement and redemption, and they caused a law to be passed to secure to themselves their pro-rata of the undiscovered or undeveloped wealth.

It was tried for five years and its unproductiveness and its manifest injustice caused congress to repeal the law without one dissenting vote.

But a few years ago the thought was revived in the east and though in the interval between the repeal of the old law and the resurrection of the old thought, the west, and mostly the deserts of the west, had supplied the means to the east to enable it to make available its many resources and grow rich, this revived thought took a strong hold on eastern cupidity, and the then President, one Theodore Roosevelt, selected a personal friend, one Gifford Pinchot, to go west, spy out the land and see what he could find and appropriate. By the way, it is understood that Mr. Pinchot, for his personal use draws large annual revenues from coal mines in Pennsylvania which originally cost his ancestors only \$2.50 per acre.

In the meantime because of the partial subduing of electricity to man's use, water power had become valuable. So had timber lands, so had oil lands, so had iron and coal lands.

Thus when Mr. Pinchot came west, what he did was in effect to deliver an ultimatum to the men of the desert, which, set to words, was about this:

"Our great and beneficent government loves the men of the desert almost as much as it does the lovable mongrels in Mexico; it wants you all to prosper and so opens the whole of this domain to you, only keep in mind that if you discover any forests, any streams that will make water power, any coal or iron mines or oil lands, you must not disturb them for they are on the public domain, they may become valuable after a while and all the people of the east have a

common interest in them and must realize their pro rata of any profits that may come from them."

Then he sent out a small army of his friends on government salaries, as spies to see that the greedy men of the west should not appropriate anything in which his benevolent friends in the east had their pro rata interest. In this way about one-third of the state of Idaho was placed under a timber reserve, including the streams that water power might be created from. In the same way Utah oil and coal and timber lands were covered. In Alaska some nifty men had begun to make some coal lands available for the people, but the cry went up that they were monopolists and the government immediately sat down upon them, and so for five years past, the general public up there has, with ample coal measures at its doors, been forced to buy coal from Japan and British Columbia.

But it is idle to inveigh against the mingled cupidity and stupidity of the educated idiots who at long range feel it a duty to rob the west though they know no more about the real conditions than they know of the God they pray for blessings from. So they continue to pray to God and to prey upon the west.

## The Only Way

THE government is building a railroad in Alaska. It was afraid that if constructed by private capital a monopoly would be created, some few men would become too rich; their example would be bad and make poor men discontented. That exact justice might be done Uncle Sam went down into his trousers pocket, pulled out a roll, and said "Here are a few millions of the people's money; as a whole they do not know anything about big investments, so I will use this money to build the road, and if the cost exceeds the estimates I will take some more of their money and finish it, or if I run short I will borrow the money. I can get it at 4 per cent, and the people don't mind that, and then I will lease the road to some friends of the administration and show not only the people of Alaska how much I love them, but show the greedy monopolists who control our big roads a trick or two in cheap management."

On its face that has a benevolent look, though it is true that our benevolent Uncle Samuel already has some fifty miles of railroad across the Isthmus of Darien, and the charges levied and paid on that road are so excessive that were the management of any of our great roads to copy the schedule of the Panama road and apply it, they would see their tracks torn up by an indignant people within a month, unless the interstate commerce commission interposed and changed rates back to the old figures.

That example down on the Isthmus does not have an encouraging look to the men of Alaska, but they doubtless reason that, by that road they will be able to get coal as cheaply as they have been getting it from Japan.

But it is another matter that we desire to have considered. All men of all parties would like to see the United States take and hold a full